



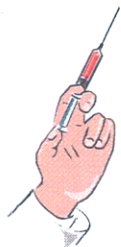
*Fall
Greetings!*

Calling The Shots

A publication of the Hawaii Immunization Program

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2001- 2002 Flu Update

By Lorian M. Kanno, Pharm D.

As the 2001-2002 influenza season approaches, the Hawaii Immunization Program is providing you with the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding influenza vaccine. U.S. public health officials are predicting that last year's delay in the distribution of influenza vaccine will be repeated again this fall. However, they project that the delay will not be as severe as it was during the 2000-2001 flu season. As of August 6, 2001, vaccine manufacturers estimate that by the end of October, 47.8 million of the 79.1 million doses to be produced, will be available for delivery and 31.3 million doses are projected to be available in November and December. The delay has prompted the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to develop supplemental recommendations for influenza vaccine administration. The goals of these recommendations are 1) to prioritize and phase in the use of vaccine for the 2001-2002 influenza season to ensure that persons at greatest risk for severe influenza and its complications and their health-care providers receive vaccine early in the influenza season, and 2) to increase overall protection of those at greatest risk for severe influenza and its complications as targeted in the Healthy People 2010 objectives.*

Persons at high risk include those aged ≥ 65 years; nursing home and other chronic-care facility residents; adults and children with chronic disorders of the pulmonary and cardiovascular systems, including asthma; adults and children who required medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year because of chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression, including that caused by medications or human immunodeficiency virus; children and teenagers (aged 6 months to 18 years) who receive long-term aspirin therapy; and women who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during the influenza season.†

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program provides influenza vaccine for VFC eligible children ages 6 months through 18 years who are at risk as discussed above. To order influenza vaccine for your at risk VFC eligible children, complete the VFC Order Form and indicate the number of doses of influenza vaccine you require. Depending on the number of doses you request, it is possible that you may not receive your entire order at one time. Vaccine will be distributed as it becomes available. If at any time there is a change in your influenza vaccine needs, please notify the VFC staff immediately by calling 586-8300 (neighbor islands call 1-800-933-4832).

* US Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2010 (conference ed., in 2 vols). Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services, 2000.

† CDC. Prevention and Control of Influenza: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 2001; 50 (no. RR-4).



TALK TO THE DOC...

By Marcia M. Nagao, M.D., M.P.H.

Why is thimerosal used as a preservative? Which vaccines still contain thimerosal?

Thimerosal is used as a preservative in some multidose vials of vaccine to prevent contamination after opening. Preservatives are not required for vaccines in single dose vials.

All routinely recommended licensed pediatric vaccines that are currently being manufactured for the U.S. market contain no thimerosal or only trace amounts. Thimerosal may still be used in the early stages of manufacturing of certain vaccines, but is removed through a purification process, leaving only trace, or insignificant amounts remaining. Vaccines with trace amounts of thimerosal licensed to date contain less than 0.5 micrograms of mercury per dose, or less than 1 part per million.

All current influenza vaccines and tetanus and diphtheria vaccines (DT and Td) contain thimerosal (thimerosal concentration 0.01%). The following vaccines contain thimerosal concentrations of <0.0002%, considered "trace" or insignificant: DTaP (Tripedia®, Aventis Pasteur) and Hepatitis B (Engerix-B Preservative Free®, GlaxoSmithKline).

Current scientific data have not established that products containing thimerosal, when used as a preservative within prescribed limits, create an imminent or substantial hazard to public health. **The risks of not vaccinating children on time far outweigh the risk, if any, of exposure to thimerosal-containing vaccines.**

For more information on thimerosal content in some currently manufactured U.S. licensed vaccines, go to:

www.fda.gov/cber/vaccine/thimcnt.htm



Test Your Vaccine Knowledge...

- The last time the temperatures in the refrigerator/freezer were monitored and logged was...
 - Today
 - Yesterday
 - Last Week
 - We never check it
- The expiration date on the vial of vaccine you are holding is today's date. The vaccine is ok to use.
 - True
 - False
- To stabilize temperature in the refrigerator, it is helpful to keep the following in there:
 - All vaccine diluents
 - Large plastic containers filled with water
 - Lunch
- Vaccine should never be stored in which part of the refrigerator?
 - Floor
 - Door
 - Lower right-hand corner
- When handling varicella vaccine, which of the following are very important?
 - Keep at 5°F or below and protect from light
 - Dry ice must be present when the vaccine is delivered
 - Discard reconstituted vaccine if not used within 30 minutes.
 - All of the above
- When rotating vaccine stock,
 - Use short dated vaccine first
 - Use the longest dated vaccine first as this is the "freshest".
 - Rotating stock is not that important as long as you don't use anything outdated.
 - Always over-order to make sure nothing out dates.
- What are the recommended temperature range for refrigerated vaccine storage?
 - 5°F or less (-15°C or less)
 - 35°F—46°F (2°C—8°C)
- You have a sign on your refrigerator/freezer as well as near the refrigerator/freezer electrical plug to prevent accidental unplugging.
 - True
 - False

Just a Reminder...

Due to the shortage of vaccine, routine Td boosters should be postponed until vaccine supply becomes available.
Contact Loriann Kanno, Pharm D at (808) 586-8329 with any questions you may have regarding the Td supply.

- Answers:**
- A, B +2 pts—Daily monitoring and logging is excellent
C 0 pts—You should be monitoring and logging temperatures daily.
D -2 pts—Monitor and log your refrigerator temperatures AT LEAST once a day.
The ideal is twice a day (once in the morning and again in the afternoon) to find out if your refrigerator maintains proper temperatures all night & during times of heavy use.
 - A +2 pts—Correct
B -2 pts—Vaccine does not need to be discarded. It may be used until midnight of its expiration date.
 - A 0 pts—It is not necessary to refrigerate diluents
B +2 pts—Correct
C -2 pts—Never store food with vaccines
 - A 0 pts—The floor of the refrigerator is fine
B +2 pts—Never store vaccine in the door. There is too much temperature variation when the door is opened.
C 0 pts—The lower right hand corner of the refrigerator is fine.
 - A 0 pts—Yes, keep reading
B 0 pts—Yes, keep reading
C 0 pts—Yes, keep reading
D +2 pts
 - A +2 pts—Correct
B -2 pts—Vaccine is either fresh or outdated. There are no "degrees of freshness".
C -2 pts—Always rotate vaccine stock so you can avoid having outdated vaccine.
D -2 pts—Over ordering wastes money and vaccine. Order carefully.
 - A -2 pts—5°F or less (-15°C or less) is the recommended temperature range for FROZEN vaccine (i.e. Varicella).
B +2 pts—Correct
 - A +2 pts
B -2 pts—Avoid losing all of your vaccines by someone accidentally unplugging your refrigerator.
 - 14-16 points—Excellent, you are safeguarding your vaccine and your patients.
10-12 points—So close...a few changes will ensure that your vaccine is properly stored.
Under 8 points—Opportunity knocks! It is time to make some important changes. Your vaccine efficacy could be at risk.
- If you have ANY questions, please call the Hawaii Immunization Program at (808) 586-8329 or 1-800-933-4832.